

II. *Descriptions of some new species of Brachycerus.*

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PLATES I. & II.

THE number of described species of *Brachycerus* is about 260, by far the greater part being from South Africa, and apparently south of the Tugela River. They are, on the whole, tolerably distinct, but, owing principally to their sculpture, not easy to describe in words that should be unmistakably intelligible. Very few species are figured, and as Schönherr's types, obtained by him just forty-seven years ago, belonged to several collectors, many may now have disappeared; but the types of the "Coleoptera Caffrariæ" are, I believe, at Stockholm. It is probable that some species here described may not be new; if so, I hope the figures herewith will compensate for the addition of useless synonyms, for I believe very little will be gained, in a genus such as this, by mere descriptions, except for isolated forms.*

This genus of weevils, easily recognisable at sight, is not to be absolutely defined, and is another instance that good generic characters in one group may be only of specific value in another. Thus there may be or not be a scutellum; ocular lobes the most pronounced or not a vestige of them; straight or sinuated tibiae armed or unarmed; a spined, angular, or a round-sided prothorax; corbels of the posterior tibiae evident or not distinctly apparent, &c. Nor is there a sign of any correlation of these characters with others. Consequently, if the genus is broken up, as Lacordaire asserts it ought to be, the number of genera will not be

* For the thirteen European species, admitted by Stein and Weise, there are forty-three synonyms; this shows the difficulty, even allowing for a certain amount of variation, of recognising the species from descriptions only.

very far short of the number of species.* Schönher's divisions of the genus include the most dissimilar forms. I have here arranged the species without reference to their affinities.

Although so numerous in species they appear to be individually scarce. Collectors at the Cape seem to have paid very little attention to their habits, but, judging from the few species of the Mediterranean region, the larvæ will probably be found feeding in the bulbs of the *Amaryllidæ* and allies, which abound in the Cape Colony, the perfect insects only emerging for a short time to prepare for another generation.

The measurements are taken from the apex of the prothorax to the declivity of the elytra. Characters common to the whole genus are mostly omitted.

Brachycerus cinnamomeus. (Pl. I., fig. 1).

B. oblongo-ovatus, squamositate cinnamomea, granulis tuberculisque adpersis, tectus; rostrum modice elongatum, antice spatium triangulari notatum; prothorax utrinque acute spinosus, apicem versus fovea magna impressus; elytra ovata, singulo tuberculis validis triseriatim obsitis, interstitiis nitide granulatis. Long. 10 lin.

Hab. Zanzibar.

A comparatively large species, which may be approximated to *B. annulatus*, Gerst. The upper parts are covered with a cinnamon-brown squamosity, with a few lighter spots on the elytra, and are marked by glossy granules and tubercles. Rostrum moderately long, anteriorly bounded by two ridges forming a triangular impression between them, the posterior part marking off the rostrum from the head; no ridge over the eyes; prothorax sharply spined at the sides, the disc with glossy granules irregularly placed and varying in size and shape, towards the apex a large and somewhat shallow pit; elytra ovate, each with three rows of tubercles, the sutural and intermediate with depressed tubercles, those near the suture much the smallest, the intermediate gradually smaller on the declivity, the outer row is composed of conical tubercles, except that the last two are spiniform, in the intervals of the tubercles many small glossy black granules; legs

* Bedel has separated *B. porcellus* as a genus under the name of *Herpes*; Dr. Aurivillius has proposed *Gyllenhallia* for *B. spectrum*, *Theates*, Fabr., is closely allied to *Brachycerus*.

covered with numerous granules, the intervals squamose and setiferous; tarsi robust.

Brachycerus suturalis. (Pl. I., fig. 2).

B. oblongo-ovatus, fuscus, regione suturali dense albido-squamoso; rostrum modice elongatum, basi bituberculatum; prothorax globosus rube punctatus, apice tumidus; elytra ovalia, apice singulorum calloso, supra lineis elevatis nodulosis instructa. Long. 6 lin.

Hab. Algoa Bay.

This species has a comparatively narrow outline; the upper part is pitchy, with a sprinkling of minute whitish scales, but a patch on the shoulders and the sutural region densely covered with larger scales. Rostrum moderately elongate, slightly concave and punctured in front, the base with two erect tubercles, the head separated by a deep depression; prothorax raised much above its base, rounded and tuberculate at the sides. disc rudely and irregularly punctured, and a deep depression behind the apex; elytra slightly rounded at the sides, on each five rows of raised nodulose lines, the intervals lightly pitted, three round spots composed of short densely packed hairs along the basal half of the third line, a smooth callus at the apex of each elytron; body beneath and legs reddish brown, clothed with small silvery scales; tarsi moderately stout.

Brachycerus eximius. (Pl. I., fig. 3).

B. oblongo-ovatus, nigro-tuberculatus, squamositate cinnamomea. luteo-plagiata, ornatus; rostrum breviusculum, basi bituberculatum, antice punctis sparsis impressum; prothorax elevatus, apice in lobis duobus producto; elytra tuberculata, regione suturali maculis conspicuis lacteis ornata. Long. 6 lin.

Hab. Cape.

A very pretty species with black glossy tubercles studding the upper parts, the intervals clothed with a cinnamon-coloured squamosity, varied by a narrow median stripe and a short lateral one on the prothorax, and three nearly connected milk-white patches on the sutural region, extending from the base to the apex. Rostrum short, not stout, two approximate tubercles towards the base, the head marked off by a narrow line; prothorax raised much above its base, tuberculate, each tubercle with a glossy granuliform tip, the apex bifid and projected on the head. the eyes lying beneath; elytra slightly rounded on the sides, punctures on the scutellar region filled with scales, sides with glossy mammilliform tubercles, each tipped with a recumbent seta; body beneath

and legs closely covered with cinnamon-coloured scales; tarsi moderately stout.

Brachycerus disjunctus. (Pl. I., fig. 4).

B. sat breviter ovatus, saturate fuscus, scutello, suturæ basi, macula triangulari et alteris duabus apicalibus, humerisque dense niveo-squamosis; prothorax eum elytris fortiter tuberculatus. Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Damara-land.

A small dark brown or nearly black species, with a conspicuous white triangular spot just behind the middle of the elytra. Rostrum not marked off from the head, somewhat elongate, comparatively narrow, the base with two oblong ridges—nearly continuous with those above the eyes—and between them a deep depression; prothorax about as long as broad, broadly grooved throughout, the apex with two conspicuous tubercles; elytra somewhat globose, about twice the length of the prothorax, each with three rows of large conical tubercles, the intervals strongly pitted, sutural line at the base, a large triangular spot behind the middle, a still larger oblong spot at the apex on each side, and the shoulders covered with white scales; last three segments of the abdomen black; legs with black setæ.

Brachycerus capito. (Pl. I., fig. 5).

B. brevis, squamositate pallide grisea tectus; rostrum crassum, gibbosum, apice bituberculatum, a capite sulco profunde disjunctum; prothorax brevis, rude irregulariter impressus, lateraliter rotundatus et tuberculatus; elytra subglobosa, tuberculis mammilliformibus lineatim instructa. Long. 5 lin.

Hab. Cape.

A short, thick-set, pale greyish species, with a broad head and large eyes, each lying under a horizontal ridge. Rostrum separated from the head by a deep groove, thick gibbous or curved in front, reticulately pitted, and the apex bituberculate; prothorax short, roughly and irregularly pitted, sides rounded, apex truncate, and ocular lobes prominent; scutellum transversely triangular; elytra nearly globose, scutellar region strongly reticulate, the sides and posterior half with prominent mammilliform tubercles, each tipped with from one to three or four setæ; first abdominal segment, except its interfemoral process, not observable; legs with longish setæ, as well as the abdomen; tarsi elongate.

Brachycerus omissus. (Pl. I., fig. 6)

B. sat breviter ovatus, squamositate laxa fusca vestitus; rostrum breve, in medio leviter excavatum, caput supra oculos fortiter cristatum: prothorax rugoso-punctatus, lateraliter spinosus; elytra ampliata, irregulariter foveata, postice et ad latera tuberculata. Long. $5\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Damara-land.

Somewhat like *B. subfasciatus*, Gyll., but differing in rostrum, sculpture, &c. Rostrum short, largely but not deeply excavated in front, not marked off from the head, an oblong ridge above the eyes, which are nearly covered in repose by the large ocular lobes; prothorax rather broader than long, rounded at the apex, irregularly rugose above, the sides with a conspicuous conical tubercle; elytra subglobose, strongly pitted, the intervals at the sides, and especially on the declivity, raised into conical tubercles, each of which are tipped with a short seta; legs with pale ashy and brownish scales: tarsi rather short. The upper parts are covered with a sparse ragged squamosity mixed with a few minute scales.

Brachycerus rivator. (Pl. I., fig. 7).

B. oblongo-ovatus, nigrescens; rostrum vix elongatum, basi constrictum et alte bicornutum, inter oculos adscendens; prothorax transversus, apice producto et incrassato, lateraliter tuberculatus; elytra lineatim tuberculata, interstitiis foveis quadratis impressis. Long. 9 lin.

Hab. Damara-land.

A dark-coloured, middle-sized species, rather depressed above, with a very pale greyish squamosity. Rostrum moderately long, narrow at the base, continued to the vertex, and conspicuously raised between the eyes, at the base an elevated spiniform tubercle on each side, expanding towards the apex into a large triangular process; prothorax transverse, nearly as broad as the elytra, produced and rounded at the apex, covered with numerous glossy granules, but leaving a slight trace of a median groove, on each side three or four tubercles; elytra moderately rounded at the sides, each with about six rows of rather small tubercles, the interstices with well-marked quadrangular pits, the suture on each side with a row of granules, tubercles on the third row raised and crowded at the base, leaving the scutellar region depressed; body beneath and legs covered with pale greyish or whitish scales; tarsi elongate.

B. lobaticollis, Per., seems—from the figure—to be allied to this species.

Brachycerus Faustii. (Pl. I., fig. 8).

B. oblongo-ovatus, plerumque squamositate obscure grisea tectus; rostrum breviusculum, antice paulo excavatum, apice bifoveatum, basi bilobatum, a capite distinctum; prothorax cum elytris carinatis, his apice dehiscentibus. Long. 12 lin.

Hab. Natal.

In facies somewhat like the next, but more allied to *B. oblongus*, Fhrs. Rostrum rather short and narrow comparatively, slightly concave in front, the apex with two conspicuous pits, the base bilobed, the lobes clearly marking it off from the head; prothorax transverse, angularly spined at the sides, three ridges on the disc, the middle one smallest; elytra broader than the prothorax, each with a slightly flexuous ridge on the basal half replaced by a line of setiferous tubercles nearly to the apex, at the side a raised nodulose line, and toward the margin three or four flattish tubercles, the sutural region nearly impunctate, intervals of the ridges closely covered with a dull greyish squamosity, that between the first and second with a finely raised line, each apex prolonged and divergent; body beneath and legs covered with dull greyish scales; inner angle of the posterior tibiæ with an acute curved spine; tarsi rather elongate.

Named after M. Johannes Faust, of Libau, Courland, who has done so much for the insect-fauna of Russia and Turkestan.

Brachycerus præcursor. (Pl. I., fig. 9).

B. oblongo-ovatus, niger; rostrum cum capite continuatum; prothorax costis duabus validis, elytra quatuor, instructi, interstitiis squamositate albida dense tectis. Long. 8 lin.

Hab. Cape.

This species is like the figure given by M. Peringuey of his *B. albotectus*, but differs from his description in several important particulars. Rostrum continuous with the head, moderately long and comparatively narrow, flattish in front, scarcely narrower at the base and reticulately punctured; prothorax transverse, gradually expanding into an acute angle at the sides, disc with two elevated glossy black ridges, between which is a smaller ridge, but covered, as is the rest of the prothorax, with a whitish squamosity; no ocular lobes; scutellum small but distinct; elytra nowhere scarcely broader than the prothorax, each with a ridge continuous with the one on the prothorax, but only extending midway and replaced by

a line of setiferous tubercles nearly to the apex, a shorter ridge outside, and then a few tubercles more towards the outer margin, the intervals with the same kind of squamosity as on the prothorax; abdominal segments, except the first, dark brown, the sterna and legs densely covered with ivory-like scales; tarsi slender, but the last joint distinctly stouter.

Brachycerus phlyctenoides. (Pl. I., fig. 10).

B. oblongo-ovatus, niger, supra granulis nitidis confertim tectus; rostrum gibbosum, postice bilobum, antice supra planatum et rude punctatum; prothorax transversus, apicem versus canaliculatus, utrinque leviter tuberculato-angulatus; elytra ovata, irregulariter granulata. Long. 13 lin.

Hab. Guinea.

A large black scaleless species, with numerous glossy granules above, many of them—especially on the prothorax—with a small central puncture. Rostrum moderately long, gibbous and roughly punctured in front, bilobed at the base, and separated from the head by a well-marked curved groove; prothorax not much broader than long, the apex slightly produced and rounded, the middle with a groove well marked anteriorly, granules very irregular on the disc, smaller at the sides, except one more prominent and tuberculiform; elytra ovate, granules somewhat flattish, irregular, the intervals punctate; legs punctured, many of the punctures with a small granule; tibiae slightly bisinuate; posterior tarsi with the terminal joint as long as the rest together.

Brachycerus albicollis. (Pl. II., fig. 1).

B. oblongus, fusco-brunneus, squamosus, albo-signatus; prothorax latus, lateraliter tuberculatus, antice albo-squamosus et fere impunctatus; elytra ovata, prothorace paulo latiora, tuberculata; tarsi modice elongati. Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Natal ?

A small brownish species having the anterior half of the prothorax and head covered with white scales, as well as a large triangular spot on the elytra. Rostrum moderately long, roughly punctured, the base with two oblong oblique contiguous lobes marking it off from the head; prothorax broad, convex, each side with a small obtuse tubercle, the apex with a quadrate impression, anterior half, or white portion, nearly impunctate, the posterior half coarsely pitted, the intervals more or less raised into tubercles, each mostly with a glossy black flattish top; scutellum distinct, white; elytra

ovate, rather broader than the prothorax, with tubercles principally in three rows, the inner row confined to the declivity, tubercles not prominent, each with a glossy black top, the intervals lightly pitted; legs and body beneath closely scaled, the former with decumbent black setæ; tarsi of moderate length.

Brachycerus electilis. (Pl. II., fig. 2).

B. oblongus, squamosus, rufo-brunneus, albo-signatus; prothorax latus, lateraliter rotundatus, disco cruciatim impressus; elytra prothorace vix latiora, brevia, supra foveatim corrugata et tuberculata; tarsi breves. Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Algoa Bay.

A small rufous-brown species with white patches, minute scales in parts and curiously wrinkled elytra. Rostrum rather short, roughly punctured in front, towards the base two erect cylindrical tubercles, a groove marking it off from the head; antennæ short, stout; prothorax very convex, broad, rounded at the sides, on the disc a cross-shaped impression, and behind the transverse arm of the cross a double row of oblong raised points marked with a linear impression, and before it a band composed of whitish scales; scutellum distinct, white; elytra short and not much broader than the prothorax, covered with tubercles more or less marked, with narrow raised transverse and oblique lines, enclosing deep and irregular pits between them, the sides with strongly marked quadrate punctures, suture at the base and a transverse patch on the declivity composed of closely-set minute white scales.

Brachycerus obtusus. (Pl. II., fig. 3).

B. breviter ovatus, squamositate fusco-grisea tectus; rostrum breve, in medio unituberculatum, basi lobis duobus obliquis obsitum; prothorax lateraliter obtuse angulatus; elytra ovata, tuberculata, apice quasi truncata. Long. 6 lin.

Hab. Natal.

A short dark grey species, the elytra broadly rounded at the apex, but when viewed from above apparently truncate. Rostrum short, stout, the middle in front with a flattish tubercle and a raised line behind it, the base with two oblique lobes; prothorax transverse, closely punctured, the sides obtusely angulate, a deep depression at the apex, which is truncate; elytra ovate, the apex broadly rounded, each with three rows of stout conical tubercles, the sutural row confined to behind the middle, tubercles tipped with a short seta, the apical tubercle of the second row much

larger and bearing numerous longer setæ; body beneath shortly setose, legs with longer setæ; no spur on the posterior tibiae.

Brachycerus draco. (Pl. II., fig. 4).

B. ovatus, nigro-fuscus, squamulis subaureis vestitus; rostrum elongatum, antice longitudinaliter excavatum; prothorax subtransversus, lateraliter fortiter angulatus, disco sparse punctatus; elytra ampliata, triseriatim tuberculata, tuberculis setis plurimis subaureis coronatis, interstitiis fortiter foveatis et sparse setosis; tarsis elongatis. Long. 9 lin.

Hab. Natal.

A dark brown species, but, as seen under a lens, clothed with minute rufous scales having a golden tint in certain lights. Rostrum long, with an elevated margin on each side contiguous at the base, marked off from the head by a slight groove, no superciliary ridge; prothorax subtransverse, angularly produced at the sides, the angle obliquely sloped anteriorly, the side anterior to the angle constricted, the apex truncate, with an oblong depression above, the disc with large shallow punctures; no ocular lobes; elytra broadly rounded at the sides, each with three rows of tubercles; tubercles of the inner and intermediate rows mostly depressed, the outer row and declivity composed of conical tubercles, all tipped with a fasciculus of long recumbent rufous golden-tinted setæ; body beneath and legs densely squamulose; tarsi elongate, especially the claw-joint.

Brachycerus turbatus. (Pl. II., fig. 5).

B. sat breviter ovatus, nigro-fuscus; rostrum breviusculum, dimidio apicali reticulato, basi lobis duobus munitum; prothorax transversus, lateraliter obtuse angulatus; elytra ampliata, tuberculis granulisque minutis tecta. Long. 8 lin.

Hab. Natal.

A dull dark brown species, with a bluntly angular prothorax, and the elytra tuberculate, with the ordinary squamosity not very evident. Rostrum rather short, the apical half broad and unequally reticulate anteriorly, the base with two oblong tubercles; head marked off by a slight groove, no superciliary ridges; prothorax moderately transverse, bluntly angular at the sides, an oblong excavation at the apex, disc uneven, tubercles few, not conspicuous, some with a glossy black point; elytra broadly rounded at the sides, roughly and rather closely covered with many large tubercles, with smaller ones between, and scattered minute glossy black

granules over all; abdomen coarsely punctured; legs covered with pale grey scales and with numerous short setæ; tarsi moderately elongate.

Brachycerus gryphus. (Pl. II., fig. 6).

B. oblongo-ovatus, squamositate ferruginea tectus; rostrum modice elongatum, antice punctatum; prothorax transversus, lateraliter acute spinosus, antice excavatus; elytra amplia, biserialiter tuberculata, tuberculis apice setigeris, a basi ad declivitatem gradatim majoribus, serie exteriori tuberculis validis spina nigra acuta terminatis, interstitiis rude foveatis. Long. 10 lin.

Hab. Usambara.

An East African species; the sculpture approximates it to *B. draco*. Rostrum moderately long, the slightly raised margins coalescing towards the base, which is bilobed, and scarcely marked off from the head; prothorax slightly transverse, sides with a short acute conical spine, the apex with an oblong impression, disc with few tubercles, the largest above and a little behind the lateral spine; elytra broadly rounded at the sides, each with two rows of tubercles, those on the inner row consisting of five small and two much larger and more conical placed on the declivity, each tipped with a glossy black spot, the outer row consisting principally of three large conical tubercles, each terminating in a well-developed acute black spine, the intervals irregularly pitted, towards the outer margin several small glossy-black granules; tibiæ and tarsi ringed with black; claw-joint of the tarsi as long or longer than the rest together.

Brachycerus strumosus. (Pl. II., fig. 7).

B. ovatus, fuscus, squamis minutis pallidioribus tectus; rostrum elongatum, basin versus marginibus exterioribus elevatis; prothorax vix transversus, lateraliter angulatus, apice callositate magna munitus; elytra ampliata, biserialiter tuberculata, seriebus internis magnis planatis. Long. 10 lin.

Hab. Senegal.

A stout dull brown species covered with minute paler scales, and having a prominent callosity on the apex of the prothorax. Rostrum elongate, irregularly impressed in front, the posterior half with a raised margin on either side, and at the base two inconspicuous tubercles marking it off from the head; prothorax nearly as broad as long, angulate at the sides, the apex with a large rounded elevated callosity, and on each side above the angle a cluster of three or four unequal tubercles; elytra rather short,

broadly rounded at the sides, each with two rows of tubercles, the inner row with three, large and flat, having on the top a few setiferous punctures and a conical one on the declivity, the outer row composed of one round and three conical apiculate tubercles, rest of the elytra with numerous small unequal tubercles, many with a glossy black tip; legs rather long; claw-joint of the posterior tarsi as long as the rest together.

Brachycerus mærens. (Pl. II., fig. 8).

B. ovatus, squamosus, fuscus, albo-notatus, supra nitide tuberculatus; rostrum breviusculum, parte apicali excepta, albido-squamosum, punctis dispersis, basi elevatum disjunctim bilobatum, a capite profunde separatum; prothorax paulo transversus, lateraliter acute spinosus; elytra subglobosa. Long. 6 lin.

Hab. Zambesi.

A dark brown species with patches of white scales, the upper parts dotted with unequal glossy black-tipped tubercles. Rostrum comparatively short, conspicuously punctured, except toward the apex, the intervals with pale yellowish scales, the base raised and bilobed, marked off from the head by a deep groove; prothorax, excluding the spines, about as long as broad, a deep oblong impression anteriorly, disc coarsely tuberculate, a few of the tubercles emarginate behind, a black seta issuing from the emargination, base of the lateral spine covered with white scales; a black scutellum; elytra subglobose, each with about six rows of tubercles, but the intervals so strongly and unequally pitted that at first they appear to be irregularly distributed, the tubercles on the inner row have a more granular character, the fourth and fifth rows are the most conspicuous, all the tubercles have a glossy black tip, and some have a seta as well, of the white patches the largest is basal, behind it are two smaller ones, at the side another, and the fifth is towards the apex; sides of the abdomen with four pale spots; legs covered with ashy scales.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES I. & II.

PLATE I.

- FIG. 1. *Brachycerus cinnamomeus*.
 2. " *suturalis*.
 3. " *eximius*.
 4. " *disjunctus*.
 5. " *capito*.
 6. " *omissus*.
 7. " *rixator*.
 7a. " " rostrum.
 8. " *Faustii*.
 8a. " " rostrum.
 9. " *præcursor*.
 10. " *phlyetænoides*.

PLATE II.

1. *Brachycerus albicollis*.
 2. " *clectilis*.
 3. " *obtusus*.
 4. " *draco*.
 5. " *turbatus*.
 6. " *gryphus*.
 7. " *strumosus*.
 8. " *mærens*.